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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6426

BILL NUMBER: HB 1271

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 22, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Inmate Credit Time.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Stemler

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill prohibits an offender from earning credit time for a high school diploma if the offender has previously obtained a general educational development (GED) diploma. It also prohibits an offender from earning credit time for a GED diploma if the offender has previously obtained a high school diploma.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill would have a minimum effect on the offender population in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities since it has been DOC's policy since 2005 to not permit offenders to receive earned credit time for completing both a GED and a high school diploma.

LSA identified 23 offenders who completed both a GED and a high school diploma who were in DOC custody on October 22, 2007. Offenders who completed both prior to August 19, 2005, may have received additional credit for both a GED and a high school diploma. Since 2005, no offender has received credit for both the GED and a high school diploma.

Each of these 23 offenders, according to DOC records, earned a GED first and the high school diploma at a later time. Consequently, each have earned a potential added time cut of up to 12 months. Under current law, offenders can receive a time cut of six months for completing a GED and 12 months for completing a high school diploma.

Background— DOC has had an executive directive since August 19, 2005, that specifically prohibits

offenders who have attained either a high school diploma or a GED prior to or during their current period of incarceration from participating in another high school or GED program and, thus, are not eligible for any additional earned credit time.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction, Executive Directive # 05-29.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Correction.

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